

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BIENNA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2628

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BU, PINT, PORG
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN AGRARIAN UNION CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL
SESSION; NEW WORLD PEACE COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

1. BULGARIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNION (BZNS), SHELL
OF OLD, VIGOROUS BULGARIAN AGRARIAN MOVEMENT, WHICH
IS STILL THEORETICALLY BULGARIA'S "SECOND PARTY,"
HELD ITS 33RD CONGRESS NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1 IN
SOFIA, FOLLOWED BY INTERNATIONAL SESSION DECEMBER 2-3
ATTENDED BY DELEGATIONS FROM "PEASANT AND ALLIED
DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
FROM EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA."

2. DOMESTIC CONGRESS, LAST CONVENED IN 1971, REELECTED
ALL MAJOR BZNS OFFICE-HOLDERS, INCLUDING SECRETARY PETUR
TANCHEV, AND REAFFIRMED BZNS'S LOYALTY TO THE BCP.
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(ARTICLE 1 OF THE BZNS CONSTITUTION STATES, "THE BCP

LEADS IN BUILDING A DEVELOPED SOCIALIST SOCIETY...IN CLOSE FRATERNAL COOPERATION WITH THE BZNS.") AGRARIANS HOLD 100 OF 400 SEATS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 3 CABINET POSTS, AND CLAIM 120,000 MEMBERS, PROVIDING PAPER BASIS FOR BULGARIAN CLAIM OF DEMOCRATIC RULE. AT SAME TIME, BZNS OFFICIALS AT CONFERENCE, SUCH AS SECRETARY ANGEL DIMITROV, TOOK GREAT PAINS TO STRESS "UNITY OF ACTION BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND AGRARIANS." CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE CAPPED IT BY SENDING MESSAGE TO BZNS ON OCCASION OF CONGRESS REFERRING TO IT AS "FAITHFUL COLLABORATOR OF BCP."

3. INTERNATIONAL SESSION WHICH FOLLOWED WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATIONS OF 81 GROUPS FROM 62 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PARTIES SUCH AS FRG'S FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY, FINNISH CENTER PARTY, AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURAL UNION, AND (TUNISIAN) DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY, AS WELL AS OTHER PREDICTABLE GUESTS. TOPIC WAS "PROBLEMS OF STRUGGLING FOR PEACE AND SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND THE PEOPLE'S MATERIAL AND CULTURAL PROGRESS." BULGARIAN PRESS SAID BROAD ATTENDANCE SHOWED "GREAT INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE" OF BZNS. BZNS SECRETARY LALYU GANCHEV SOUNDED SIREN CALL IN TELLING DELEGATES THAT "BULGARIAN EXPERIENCE...HAS BELIED SLANDER OF IMPERIAL-IST REACTION MAINTAINING THAT ONCE IN THE SADDLE, THE COMMUNISTS DROP THEIR ALLIES."

4. TODOR ZHIVKOV ADDRESSED INTERNATIONAL SESSION DECEMBER 3 IN LONG, RAMBLING SPEECH, TEXT OF WHICH WAS WITHHELD BY PRESS COMMITTEE, BUT WHICH, ACCORDING TO BULGARIAN JOURNALIST, CONTAINED NUMBER OF MYSTIFYING GAFFES AND NON-SEQUITURS.

5. ONE FIGURE PRESENT WAS ROMESH CHANDRA, SECRETARY OF WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE, WHO ANNOUNCED VARIETY OF FUTURE MEETINGS IN SAME GENRE, INCLUDING WCP BUREAU SESSION IN CARACAS IN DECEMBER, WORLD FORUM OF PEACE FORCES IN MOSCOW IN JANUARY, PRESIDUM OF WCP IN SOFIA IN FEBRUARY, AND A WORLD ASSEMBLY OF BUILDERS

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OF PEACE IN 1977.

6. COMMENT: BZNS APPARENTLY REMAINS AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SHILL FOR BCP. ITS EXISTENCE ALSO PERMITS BULGARIA TO CALL ITSELF A DEMOCRACY AND ITS WILLING COMPLIANCE EASES TASK OF MELDING COUNTRY'S LONG AGRARIAN POLITICAL TRADITION INTO MARXIST-LENINISM WITHOUT IDEOLOGICAL STRAIN. ALL IN ALL,

A GOOD BARGAIN FOR BCP. END COMMENT:
FELDMAN

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